

# LIGHT ARMORED VEHICLE EXPEDITIONARY FIRE SUPPORT SYSTEM (LAV-EFSS)

## DESCRIPTION

The Marine Corps is pursuing the Light Armored Vehicle Expeditionary Fire Support System (LAV-EFSS) as a replacement for the current M252 81mm mortar-equipped LAV-M weapon. The program will replace the M252 system with a weapon and fire control system that will allow the Light Armored Reconnaissance battalions to engage and suppress lightly armored vehicles and dismounted infantry at ranges that will allow the battlefield commander to more effectively shape the battlefield. Solutions under consideration include an internally stowed 81mm extended-range mortar, a 120mm smooth-bore mortar, and a 120mm rifled mortar. An automated and integrated fire control system will speed emplacement at, and displacement from, firing positions, resulting in increased survivability.

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

LAR units require an organic indirect fire capability to support operations

across their wide frontages far separated from supporting GCE assets. While the LAV-M (with an integrated M252 81mm mortar) was designed to fill this role, its range and the lethality of its rounds are insufficient in meeting the current requirements. While operating at very high speeds and separated at times from main body forces, the current LAV-M and division artillery assets cannot provide adequate ground based indirect fire support coverage. Correction of this deficiency is essential to the successful employment of the Light Armored Reconnaissance battalion in future conflicts.

## PROGRAM STATUS

Milestone A was achieved in August 2003. The program is currently awaiting research, development, testing, and evaluation funding to commence in FY 2005. Milestone B approval is scheduled for the third quarter of FY 2005, and source selection for the fourth quarter.

<b>PROCUREMENT PROFILE:</b>	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>
Quantity:	0	0
<b>DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER</b>		
TBD		